REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending. Claims 1-35 have been rejected. Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 12, 14-23, 30, and 31 have been amended. Claims 2, 13, and 24 have been canceled and their features have been incorporated into their independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesy extended by the Examiner to the Applicants' representative during the telephonic interview on October 24, 2006.

Claims 8, 9, 19, 20, 30, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims have been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8, 9, 19, 20, 30, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. As noted above, claim 13 has been canceled, thereby obviating its rejection. The remaining claims have been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 12-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-13, 15, 18-25, 29-31, 34, and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Subramanian (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0018681). As noted above, claims 2, 13, and 24 have been canceled, thereby obviating their rejections. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4, 7-12, 15, 18-23, 25, 29-31, 34, and 35 are patentable for the reasons set forth below.

According to claim 1, an event is received and then an exception handler is determined for the event. Claim 1 then includes the feature of "determining if the exception handler is valid by comparing the exception handler to a list of valid exception handlers and otherwise determining that the exception handler is invalid". The exception handler is executed if it is valid. See, e.g., application as originally filed, at Figure 3 and its corresponding description. The prior art fails to disclose or suggest determining if the exception handler is valid by comparing the exception handler to a list of valid exception handlers and otherwise determining that the exception handler is invalid.

Subramanian describes the use of exception handlers in application recovery. When an exception is received in Subramanian, it is determined if a low level exception handler exists that can resolve the exception. If there is an exception handler for the exception, then it is executed (e.g., paragraphs [0025] – [0032]).

In other words, Subramanian receives an event (an exception), determines an exception handler for the event (e.g., using a look up table), and then executes the exception handler. Subramanian does not, however, determine if the exception handler is valid by comparing the exception handler to a list of valid exception handlers and otherwise determining that the exception handler is invalid. If the exception handler exists for the event, then Subramanian assumes that the exception handler is valid. Subramanian does not consider whether the exception handler that has been determined is invalid or not. Therefore, for example, if an attacker is able to associate an unauthorized or invalid exception handler with an event (e.g., by modifying the look up table), this unauthorized or invalid exception handler will be executed when the event is received. The invention of claim 1 avoids the execution of an attacker's exception handler by determining if the exception handler, that has been determined to be associated with the event, is in fact valid or invalid.

Claims 12 and 23 recite similar features to those described with claim 1. Therefore, claims 1, 12, and 23, and their dependent claims including claims 4, 7-11, 15, 18-22, 25, 29-31, 34, and 35, are patentable for the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 7-12, 15, 18-23, 25, 29-31, 34, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 5, 14, 16, 26, 27, and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Subramanian in view of Kukol (U.S. Patent No. 5,628,016). Claims 3, 5, 14, 16, 26, 27, and 32 variously depend from independent claims 1, 12, and 23, and are therefore patentable for the reasons set forth above. Kukol fails to cure the deficiencies of Subramanian. Kukol generally describes exception handling, but does not teach or suggest determining if an exception handler is valid by comparing the exception handler to a list of valid exception handlers and otherwise determining that the exception handler is invalid. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 5, 14, 16, 26, 27, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 17, and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Subramanian in view of Bhansali (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0169999).

Claims 6, 17, and 28 depend from independent claims 1, 12, and 23 respectively, and are therefore patentable for the reasons set forth above with respect to these claims. Bhansali fails to cure the deficiencies of Subramanian. Bhansali generally describes exception handlers, but does not teach or suggest but does not teach or suggest determining if an exception handler is valid by comparing the exception handler to a list of valid exception handlers and otherwise determining that the exception handler is invalid. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 17, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

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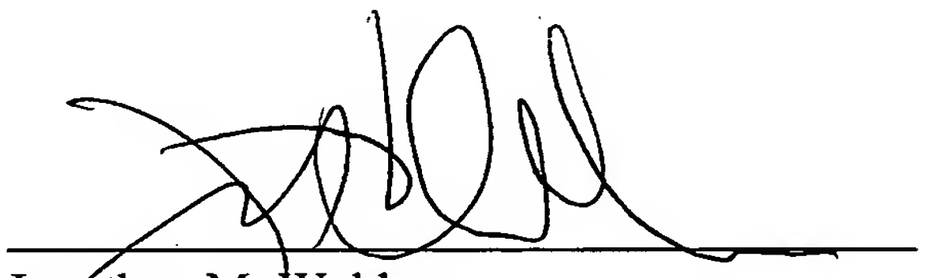

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